

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 IO-13 L-03 TRSE-00 INT-05  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPA-04 CEQ-01 PM-04 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 CG-00  
DLOS-09 OES-06 FEA-01 /098 W  
-----130247Z 040551 /75-70

R 121730Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3949  
INFO AMCONSUL GENOA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS ROME 5992

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EWWT, SENV, IMCO, IT  
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION

REF: AMEMBASSY ROME 5744

LONDON FOR ATTENTION OF USDEL TO MSC.

FOLLOWING IS ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION OF  
WEST EUROPEAN SHIPBUILDERS (AWES), R. BASILICO'S LETTER OF APRIL  
6 ADDRESSED TO MARITIME ATTACHE, CONFIRMING SUPPORT OF  
PRESIDENTIAL PROPOSALS ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION AS REPORTED IN  
REFTEL. BEGIN TEXT

"DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY  
TO REVIEW THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS  
REQUESTING IT TO DEAL WITH THE VERY IMPORTANT PROBLEM OF POL-  
LUTION WHICH WEIGHS HEAVILY ON MARITIME ACTIVITY, ALSO BECAUSE  
OF THE FATAL CONSEQUENCES IT MAY HAVE IF IT IS NOT PROPERLY  
DEALT WITH.

UPON MY RETURN FROM WASHINGTON, I ALSO RECEIVED YOUR  
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COMMUNICATION CONTAINING THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - ALREADY  
KNOWN TO ME. I WISH TO CONVEY TO YOU, AND THROUGH YOU,  
TO THE U.S. AUTHORITIES, MY MOST SINCERE AND DEEP APPRECIATION  
FOR HAVING TAKEN THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE WHICH HAS A HIGH  
HUMAN AND SOCIAL VALUE. THE INTENSITY OF MARITIME TRAFFIC  
MUST CERTAINLY BE GOVERNED BY ADEQUATE REGULATIONS, ABOVE ALL  
TO ELIMINATE THE RISKS OF POLLUTION. AS YOU KNOW, I PERSONALLY

SUBMITTED THROUGH YOU, ALREADY IN THE PAST, A REQUEST TO THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION ASKING THEM TO BACK THIS INITIATIVE; AND TODAY I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE THAT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM HAS ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND OF THE CONGRESS.

THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION, CAUSED ESPECIALLY BY OIL TRANSPORTATION, ARE NOT ONLY LIMITED TO A DANGEROUS FORM OF DESTRUCTION OF THE SEA BOTTOM, BUT ALSO CAUSE COLLATERAL EFFECTS AND CONSEQUENCES SUCH AS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE MARINE FLORA AND FAUNA. THE ADOPTION OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT HAS BEEN REJECTED IN THE PAST, ESPECIALLY BY OIL COMPANIES, SINCE THE ADOPTION OF SUCH MEASURES WOULD PRODUCE, FOR THE EXISTING SHIPS, A MAXIMUM TRANSPORT CAPACITY REDUCTION OF 30 0/0 RESULTING IN A COST INCREASE OF CRUDE OIL AMOUNTING TO ONLY A FEW CENTS. MOREOVER, IT MUST BE CONSIDERED THAT THESE ARE TEMPORARY COSTS SINCE - AND THIS IS THE IMPORTANT POINT - IN THE FUTURE SHIP CONSTRUCTION WILL HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW STANDARDS.

FINALLY, CONSIDERING THE BENEFITS HUMANITY WILL ENJOY THEREBY, I BELIEVE THAT THE ACTION PROMOTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. AND BY CONGRESS DESERVES THE MOST SINCERE AND TOTAL SUPPORT,

APART FROM THE ADDITIONAL WORK RESULTING FOR THE SHIPYARDS IN MODIFYING THE EXISTING SHIPS TO MEET THE NEW REQUIREMENTS WHICH IS, AFTER ALL, MARGINAL.

THIS IS WHY I HAVE CONSIDERED IT MY DUTY TO INFORM ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF AWES OF THIS INITIATIVE, SO THAT THEY MAY EXERT PRESSURE ON THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS TO REACH UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT AND A BROAD CONSENSUS, FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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ESSENTIAL TO ALL PEOPLES.

MEANWHILE, I ASSURE YOU THAT THE CONTACTS I HAVE HAD TODAY WITH HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE ITALIAN MERCHANT MARINE INDICATE THAT THERE IS FULL ACCORD WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROJECT, AND THAT IT WILL BE ADEQUATELY SUPPORTED AT AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

SIMILAR ACTION WILL ALSO BE TAKEN PARTICULARLY WITHIN AWES BEGINNING WITH THE NEXT MEETING ON APRIL 21, 1977.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ASK YOU TO PLEASE TRANSMIT TO YOUR COUNTRY'S AUTHORITIES THE EXPRESSIONS OF OUR HIGHEST APPRECIATION FOR THE INITIATIVE TAKEN TO REGULATE THE PROTECTION OF RESOURCES WHICH AFFECT HUMAN LIFE.

I WOULD LIKE IN PARTICULAR TO EXPRESS TO YOU MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND SINCERE THANKS. "END TEXT.GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, WATER POLLUTION, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION  
**TAGS:** EWWT, SENV, IT, US, IMCO, (BASILICO, R)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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